

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CFDA 93.667 SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program is to provide funds to States (including the District of Columbia and five territories) to provide services for individuals, families, and entire population groups in one or more of the following areas: (1) achieving or maintaining economic self-support and self-sufficiency to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency; (2) preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests; (3) preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families; (4) preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of intensive care; and (5) securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate, or providing services to individuals in institutions.

II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES

Administration and Services

The SSBG program is administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a component of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Funds are awarded based on the State's population following receipt and review of the State's report on the proposed use of funds for the coming year, which serves as the State's plan. States have the flexibility to determine what services will be provided, consistent with the statutory goals and objectives, who is eligible, and how funds will be distributed among services and entities within the State, including whether to provide services directly or obtain them from other public or private agencies and individuals. The State must also conduct a public hearing on the proposed use and distribution of funds, as included in the report, as a prerequisite to the receipt of SSBG funds.

Source of Governing Requirements

The SSBG program is authorized under Title XX of the Social Security Act, as amended, and is codified at 42 USC 1397 through 1397e. The implementing regulations for this and other block grant programs authorized by Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 are published at 45 CFR part 96. Those regulations include both specific requirements and general administrative requirements in lieu of 45 CFR part 92 (the HHS implementation of the A-102 Common Rule) for the covered block grant programs. Requirements specific to SSBG are in 45 CFR sections 96.70 through 96.74.

As discussed in Appendix I of this Supplement, Federal Programs Excluded from the A-102 Common Rule, States are to use the fiscal policies that apply to their own funds in administering SSBG. Procedures must be adequate to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the grantee, including procedures for monitoring the assistance provided (45 CFR section 96.30).

Under the block grant philosophy, each State is responsible for designing and implementing its own SSBG program, within very broad Federal guidelines. States must administer their SSBG program according to their approved plan and any amendments and in conformance with the their own implementing rules and policies.

III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

In developing the audit procedures to test compliance with the requirements for a Federal program, the auditor should first look to Part 2, Matrix of Compliance Requirements, to identify which of the 14 types of compliance requirements described in Part 3 are applicable and then look to Parts 3 and 4 for the details of the requirements.

A. Activities Allowed or Unallowed

1. Services provided with SSBG funds may include, but are not limited to, child care services, protective services for children and adults, services for children and adults in foster care, services related to the management and maintenance of the home, day care services for adults, transportation services, family planning services, training and related services, employment services, information, referral, counseling services, the preparation and delivery of meals, health support services, and appropriate combinations of services designed to meet the special needs of children, the aged, the mentally retarded, the blind, the emotionally disturbed, the physically handicapped, and alcoholics and drug addicts (42 USC 1397a(a)). Uniform definitions for these services are included in Appendix A to 45 CFR part 96 - Uniform Definitions of Services.

Expenditures for these services may include expenditures for administration, including planning and evaluation, personnel training and retraining directly related to the provision of those services (including both short- and long-term training at educational institutions), and conferences and workshops, and assistance to individuals participating in such activities (42 USC 1397a(a)).

2. A State may purchase technical assistance from public or private entities if the State determines that such assistance is required in developing, implementing, or administering the SSBG program (42 USC 1397a(e)).
3. A State may transfer up to 10 percent of its annual allotment to the following block grants for support of health services, health promotion and disease prevention activities, low-income home energy assistance, or any combination of these activities: Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (CFDA 93.991); Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse (CFDA 93.959); Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to the States (CFDA 93.994); Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (CFDA 93.568); and Community Services Block Grant (93.569) (42 USC 1397a(d); 45 CFR section 96.72).

4. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, a one-time SSBG allotment was made available to each State to support social services as under the regular SSBG program, as well as health and mental health services, and facility repair and construction for the populations and areas affected by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes (Pub. L. No. 109-148). (See III.H, "Period of Availability of Federal Funds.")
5. In FY 2009, an additional amount of funding was made available to those States
 - (a) for which the President declared a major disaster during 2008 and
 - (b) previously receiving a declaration for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That funding is available to support services as under the regular SSBG program, as well as health and mental health services, and for repair and construction of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care centers, and other social service facilities (Pub. L. No 110-329, Chapter 7).
6. Funds may not be used for:
 - a. Except as provided in III.A.4 and 5, above, purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any facility (unless the restriction is waived by ACF) (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(1)).
 - b. Cash payments for costs of subsistence or for the provision of room and board (other than costs of subsistence during rehabilitation, room and board provided for a short term as an integral but subordinate part of a social service, or temporary shelter provided as a protective service) (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(2)).
 - c. Wages of any individual as a social service (other than payment of wages of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (CFDA 93.558) recipients employed in the provision of child day care services) (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(3)).
 - d. Medical care (other than family planning services, rehabilitation services, or initial detoxification of an alcoholic or drug-dependent individual) unless it is an integral but subordinate part of an allowable social service under SSBG (unless the restriction is waived by ACF) (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(4)).
 - e. Social services (except services to an alcoholic or drug-dependent individual or rehabilitation services) provided in and by employees of any hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or prison, to any individual living in such institution (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(5)).
 - f. The provision of any educational service that the State makes generally available to its residents without cost and without regard to their income (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(6)).

- g. Any child day care services unless such services meet applicable standards of State and local law (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(7)).
- h. The provision of cash payments as a service (this limitation does not apply to payments to individuals with respect to training or attendance at conferences or workshops) (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(8)).
- i. Any item or service (other than an emergency item of service) furnished by an entity, physician, or other individual during the period of exclusion from reimbursement by various provisions of Federal regulations (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(9)).

B. Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

As discussed in Appendix I of this Supplement, Federal Programs Excluded from the A-102 Common Rule, SSBG is exempt from the provisions of the OMB cost principles circulars. State cost principles requirements apply to SSBG.

G. Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking

- 1. **Matching** - Not Applicable
- 2. **Level of Effort** - Not Applicable
- 3. **Earmarking**

The State shall use all of the amount transferred in from TANF (CFDA 93.558) only for programs and services to children or their families whose income is less than 200 percent of the official poverty guideline as revised annually by HHS (42 USC 604(d)(3)(A) and 9902(2)). Additional information on this transfer in is provided in IV, "Other Information."

The poverty guidelines are issued each year in the *Federal Register* and HHS maintains a page on the Internet that provides the poverty guidelines (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>).

H. Period of Availability of Federal Funds

SSBG funds must be expended by the State in the fiscal year allotted or in the succeeding fiscal year (42 USC 1397a(c)). However, the funds made available under the additional FY 2006 allotment (Pub. L. No. 109-148) expire on September 30, 2009 (Pub. L. No. 110-28, Section 4702).

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

Transfers out of SSBG

As discussed in III.A, "Activities Allowed or Unallowed," funds may be transferred out of SSBG to other Federal programs. The amounts transferred out of SSBG are subject to the requirements of the program into which they are transferred and should not be included in the audit universe and total expenditures of SSBG when determining Type A programs. On the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, the amount transferred out should not be shown as SSBG expenditures but should be shown as expenditures for the program into which they are transferred.

Transfers into SSBG

A State may transfer up to 10 percent of the combined total of the State family assistance grant, supplemental grant for population increases, and bonus funds for high performance and illegitimacy reduction, if any, (all part of TANF) for a given fiscal year to carry out programs under the SSBG. Such amounts may be used only for programs or services to children or their families whose income is less than 200 percent of the poverty level. The amount of the transfers is reflected on the quarterly ACF-196, *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Financial Report*. The amounts transferred into this program are subject to the requirements of this program when expended and should be included in the audit universe and total expenditures of this program when determining Type A programs. On the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, the amounts transferred in should be shown as expenditures of this program when such amounts are expended.